

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

Volume 10

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, DECEMBER 23-29, 1945

Number 26

WITHIN THE WEEK

Whatever may be said of expiring '45, it is safe to assume that this is not a yr that will be lost in the shuffle. Never in recorded history has a twelve-month period exerted so profound an influence upon such a large segment of our people.

When Rep CLARE LUCE visited Rome, in the Spring of '39, an admirer sent a bouquet to her hotel, accompanied by a note which sagely counseled: "Have fun! These are the good old days!" It is a rare individual who senses the passing of a period while the processes of transition are yet at work. We do not now have the proper perspective from which to view '45. A decade hence, perhaps, we shall look back upon this holiday season and realize that we did much more than bid adieu to an old and battered yr. We are saying farewell to a departing era, even as we seek in floundering fashion to gain a foothold in a new and soberingly different world.

MOSCOW CONFERENCE: In view of earlier failures, there will be a strong effort to make a great show of progress. However, you should analyze all dispatches carefully for factual content. Don't look for the conference to settle anything conclusively. About all the ministers can hope to do is to chart a course for future action.

LABOR: It should be pointed out that the fact-finding boards which Sec'y SCHWELLENBACH is setting up under Pres TRUMAN's direction possess no legal powers and have no definitely determined course of procedure. The Pres has simply acted in an emergency, without waiting for enabling legislation. Matter of fact, the course of labor legislation is quite uncertain at the moment. For varying reasons, neither industry nor labor has subscribed to the President's proposals. As one Washington observer puts it: "No one wants this legislation except the public!"

Nevertheless, there's a degree of promise in the current course. As we write, it seems probable that striking bus drivers will accept Sec'y SCHWELLENBACH's proposal to resume work pending a study of their case by a 5-man panel. In Canada, Ford workers have voted, after 14 wks, to ret'n to their jobs pending negotiation and arbitration of their case under gov't direction. These stray straws may well be indicative of a developing pattern. While, in the U S motor strike, both sides appear adamant, every deadlock must eventually give way. We anticipate a compromise solution early in the new year with the mere possibility that some acceptable solution to the problem may be found before the end of this year.



SHIFTING SANDS

Those of you who are experiencing difficulty in finding capable personnel to fill key positions, can sympathize with the Administration which is currently facing something approaching a personnel crisis. There's a wholesale exodus from important government posts and Pres TRUMAN cannot find acceptable men to fill vacancies. In some cases, prospects can't afford to work at salaries fixed. Men of means and ability often are unwilling to take caustic criticism positions may entail. Ambassadors to England, France, Italy and Russia all would like to be relieved. And for first time in history, no one covets these portfolios . . .

If you were asked to name our country's most formidable rival in world cotton market, you probably wouldn't say Russia. But the USSR is taking steps to increase its cotton production from 6 million bales to 18 million bales yearly; seeks to supply both Eastern and Mid-European markets.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"The poor blundering leaders of UAW picked this of all times to shut down Gen'l Motors. The corp'n is making more money now not making cars than they could earn producing at full blast. That, of course, is because of the present tax laws."—JOHN L. LEWIS, testifying to a house labor committee. (Alexander Hamilton Institute estimated, in a bulletin issued this wk, that Gen'l Motors could earn \$176 million in '46 without turning a wheel. Of this, \$160 million would be tax rebate.)

"I hope that it (capitol of United Nations Organization) will be in a better climate than London."—Dr VICTOR CHI-TSAI HOO, China's representative on the UNO preparatory commission, now meeting in London, speaking in a croaking voice, and well bundled against England's heavy fog and cold. (As you of course know, it is now definitely determined that site will be in U.S.)

"If we are on the brink of another war, should we not have the right to demand with whom, when and where?"—LEWIS G. HINES, legislative representative AFofL, heading group of union spokesmen who appeared before house military committee to protest universal military training.

"The talk of starvation is not fanciful. Half the population of Berlin will die of disease or starvation this winter."—LAIRD BELL, Chicago att'y, recently ret'd from service with American group occupying Germany. Addressing Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, BELL made point that Germans will now blame us for their plight. "The longer we stay, the longer we will be identified with their troubles."

"It is well known that Britain's choice of political leaders very largely depends on their being cartoonable." — Prof A. E. HEATH, of Swansea Univ College. HEATH contended that "It is possible that Mr Churchill rather over did this. The combination of trowels and artists' easels, hats, and cigars tended to create counter-reactions."

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"(Our information) makes clear that many women who accepted war jobs when there was an urgent need for their services are voluntarily returning to private life."—Statistics bureau, Dep't of Labor, revealing that 25% of the 4,000,000 women employed in factories last June had quit or been laid off by end of Sept.

"Just give me a Mae West and an egg beater, and I'll make it."—Simple request received on Capitol Hill recently from a soldier overseas, stymied by transportation difficulties.

"It may go back to the German nation in about 25 yrs."—Capt ROBERT GORDON CANNING, who bought granite bust of Hitler at auction of contents of the German Embassy in London.

"I am glad I got in—and I'm glad to get out."—TYRONE POWER, film actor, discharged from Marine Corps after more than 3 yrs service.

"The luxuries of the gov't come from the bread of the people."—Congressman JOSEPH MARTIN.

"I found that I miss Europe. Can you imagine that!"—An ex-serviceman, explaining why he was re-enlisting in the Army.

"He talks to people in foreign countries without even knowing their language."—J. J. LAWSON, Britain's Minister for War. Lawson contends that the British soldier "is better than most ambassadors because I have never known an ambassador who could make people laugh."

"It would weld its peoples together in prosperity, justice, and peace."—WINSTON CHURCHILL, in a plea for a United States of Europe before the Belgian joint Houses of Parliament.

"Discourtesy and insolence became so bad in our servicing trades that movie and radio comics and cartoonists made it the basis of their peculiar humor."—D. LEO DOLAN, chief of the Canadian gov't travel bureau, in address to the North American Travel conference in Chicago.

"During the next few mo's we will be tested—labor, farmer, business, gov't—as we have never been tested before during peacetime. If we should fail to meet this test, it will be a calamity for all mankind."—CHESTER BOWLES, OPA administrator, discussing danger of inflation.

"This soap is reported to eliminate the bathtub ring."—JAMES E. MARKHAM, Alien Property Custodian, turning over to U.S. mfrs a German soap patent. (Quoted in *Pathfinder*)

"I don't like the way things are being run. I'm going to wait until the Republicans get back in and bring us real prosperity."—Mrs. CORA A. GRAHAM, owner of 6-unit apartment house in Chicago. (Since '33 she has occupied one apt, left 5 vacant, despite frantic pleas of persons seeking living quarters.)

"Muddy thinking is the style in Washington."—Sen. GUY CORDON.

"The entire U.S. Army—every branch, every piece of equipment and every soldier—will be carried by air within the next 5 yrs."—Maj. Gen'l PAUL WILLIAMS, chief of Troop Carrier Command.

"My own confident prediction is that FDR dead will give them as sound a trimming as ever did FDR living."—HAROLD ICKES, Sec'y of Interior, asserting that element of Republican party is pushing Pea Harbor probe on partisan basis.

"This is to certify that *Yank* is hereby honorably discharged from the military service of the United States of America. This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of honest and faithful service to this country."—Certificate appearing on front cover of Dec 28 (final) issue of *Yank*, the Army news magazine.

"The nation now seems to be in the hands of the 'professional intellectuals,' men who are paid to think and not do anything else."—JOHN W. BRICKER, former gov of Ohio and 1944 Republican nominee for Vice-Presidency.

"If everybody had the atomic bomb they might be afraid to use it, just as we were afraid to use gas in this war. But as long as only one nation has it, the others will work secretly to get it. Then, one day, bash, bang—that's why another war is inevitable."—HERMAN GOERING, discussing world future with his prison psychologist, Lt G M GILBERT.

"The Irish in me gives me the courage to try to do my job."—Pres HARRY TRUMAN, honor guest at a Washington banquet of Friendly Sons of St Patrick. (Quoted in *Pathfinder*)

"The common man will not go to war if he is given the chance to determine the issue."—ERNEST BEVIN, British Foreign Secretary.

"Thinking of you this Christmas. Wish you were here."—Message from a convict in state prison, addressed to Detective Captain ROBT O'NEAL, of Indiana State Police.

"It's the rottenest thing I have ever seen in my life, and the last possible thing I could have believed our soldiers would stoop to."—SHARON ROGERS, one of few American civilian women in Japan, terming American soldiers' fraternization with Japanese women "disgusting." (Miss ROGERS is leader of an all-girl orchestra on a tour of Japan.)

"When there are a lot of big stallions running around at a horse show, the Shetland ponies ought to step to one side."—JAN MASARYK, Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia.

"I would appreciate it if an investigation could be made of this matter in order that if there are any such preparations being made by local Army officials they should be immediately discontinued."—PHILIP MURRAY, pres of CIO, asking Sec'y of War ROBERT PATTERSON to investigate reports that troops were being trained for "intervention in industrial disputes."

"I wouldn't be surprised if they asked for military training for all women. Then, all they'll need is Frank Sinatra, and you'll have the best jitterbug army in the world."—Pvt GEO L MARK, ex-GI, who asked House Military Affairs Committee permission to have his say on peacetime military conscription. The committee listened, excused him with polite thanks.

"For example, we could apply anthropology to remove superstitions and such ideas as that the white man is superior to the black man, and sociology to point out the frictions in perpetuation of institutions that have outlived their usefulness—like . . . separation of white and Negro churches."—Dr HENRY NOBLE MACCRACKEN, pres of Vassar College. Speaking before the Cleveland Round Table of the Nat'l Conf of Christians and Jews, he declared that "we could do something for American society if we had the am't of money and men used on the atomic bomb project."

"It was a terrible sight . . . that combination of prisoners hanging in the air and the glistening Christmas tree." — Testimony at Nuernberg war crimes trials by former prisoner of the Germans, describing Christmas day, 1944 at Flossenbergl concentration camp when a number of prisoners were hanged. As a concession to the season, the Germans had placed a brightly decorated Christmas tree beside the gallows.

"German women are more rabidly fascistic now than the men. They need strict disciplining and re-education."—ELLA LOGAN, singer, returning to Hollywood after 2 yrs of overseas entertaining. She declared that GIs were fraternizing with German women who were "storm troopers at heart."

"When we have the organization in our lap we won't go to sleep again."—Rep SOL BLOOM, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, declaring that selection of the U S as the site for the UNO was one way to keep the American people "internationally minded."

"Not much of a farm, but a swell hideout from atomic bombs." — Honest advertiser, trying to sell 160-acre farm in southern Indiana.

"To the everlasting credit of the wives of war veterans, the figures reveal that the cases of unfaithful wives constitute the exception rather than the rule."—Judge ELMER J SCHNACKENBERG, of Chicago Circuit Court, denying statement that majority of current divorcees are "unfaithful war wives."



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QUOTE is issued weekly by Drake House, Indianapolis, Indiana, Maxwell Drake, Editor; Lucy Hillie, Associate Editor. Subscription: \$5 per year in advance, in U. S. and Possessions. Two years, \$8. Your own and a gift subscription, \$8. Foreign, \$7 per year. Entered as Second Class matter at the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana, under Act of March 3, 1879. QUOTE uses no original manuscripts; does not accept advertising. Persons using material from QUOTE should credit original sources. Unidentified items may be credited to QUOTE.



MINING THE MAGAZINES

How We Earn—Editorial, *Farm Jnl*, 12-'45.

Farmers trade food for clothes and shoes and automobiles. City people trade clothes and shoes and automobiles for food. The facts of trade are clouded by faith in money, faith in laws.

Money is a handy means of storing up work to trade off later. Laws are needed to keep order. We try to use laws to fix everything that goes wrong. Neither laws nor money can change natural facts.

If we double the supply of money, we do not thereby double the supply of hats, shoes, automobiles—or food. Pass a law that says one hog must buy one suit of clothes, or vice versa. What will happen? The farmer will offer the skinniest hog that is legal; the tailor will try to get by with the shoddiest suit of clothes he can. Both will be worse off. Give the farmer more money for fewer hogs, and the tailor more money for fewer suits—still neither is better off . . .

It comes down to this: We are short of goods—goods that only work will make. The more we fight about who gets the biggest slice the less pie there will be. We can't quarrel and produce at the same time.

All that we really earn is what we produce. Wouldn't less argument and more work get us all more goods sooner?

To have more clothes and shoes and automobiles and food, somebody has got to go to work to produce these things we all need. And no laws, no monkeying with money, will make less into more.

No one can eat money nor wear laws.

ATOMIC ENERGY

Atomic energy is man's last adventure. The atomic bomb is an index of the mind's anarchy and the soul's despair.—Rev Wm E DUDLEY, "One World or None," *Advance*, 12-'45.

The atom bomb WILL bring peace—with or without people.—*N Y Times*.

I am the author and the finisher of atomic energy.—FATHER DIVINE, in his newspaper, *New Day*.

At least no one can say the atom isn't all that it was cracked up to be.—*Chilton (Wis) Times-Jnl*.

CAUSE—and Effect

A Vt farmer was putting a screw thru a narrow strip of wood. At almost the final turn of the screw, the wood split. The man sat back on his heels. "That's what I get for being too lazy to go out to the shed for a smaller screw. I knew that one was too big . . . I might better have gone in the 1st place."

(That farmer) may have a myriad specific ignorances. But so long as his eyes, confronted by a problem—confronted even by defeat—take on a measuring look rather than one of impotent rage, he will be a carrier of human dignity.—BONARO W OVERSTREET, "Stooping to Conquer," *Nat'l Parent-Teacher*, 12-'45.

CHANGE—Resistance to

Chances are that those businesses which aroused public frenzy by their lack of wartime manners have lost few if any permanent customers. Force of habit, convenient location and other factors outweigh the desire for revenge.—HARRY BIRD, "What's Happened To All the Little Black Books?" *Printers' Ink*, 12-7-'45.

CHILDREN—Rearing

One by-product of our changing times is the fact that with fewer children each child becomes not only more precious but more expensive. Modern science and industry, recent advances in education and the understanding of emotional and social drives have enormously increased the good things and the creative experiences

we can provide for our children—if we have the money. The gap between our ideals and our capacity to pay for them has widened with every new discovery . . . Mothers are going to continue to put their shoulders to this wheel, by taking a job or by any other means at their disposal.—ZILPHA C FRANKLIN, "Working Mothers—Where Do They Go From Here?" *Child Study*, Fall-'45.

They DO say. . .

To disclose the plot would be unfair, but the fun book of the yr, for all who have experienced military red tape is *The Chain of Command*, by Sgt BARRIE STAVIS. Published by ACKERMAN at \$1. . . . That "Senator Claghorn" routine on the FRED ALLEN radio show is by KENNY DELMAR. It's a hit . . . *Reader's Digest*, which dropped "Town Meeting of the Air," is looking for another radio pkg to sponsor . . . *Chicago Trib* is sending GAIL COMPTON to Fla, via auto, to report on food and lodging conditions. Thus far there's been nothing to encourage an exodus . . . Dec *Ladies' Home Jnl* goes Southern with its cover line, "A Merry Christmas to You All." . . . Chicago news-stands are dumping the book *What to do With Germany* at cut price of 25¢.

CONSERVATISM

A conservative is one who does not think that anything should be done for the 1st time.

DRINK—Drinking

In standard liquid measure, 2 pints make one cavort.

EDUCATION—Defined

Pres Neilson of Smith, asked what he understood by liberal education, once ans'd: "It is that process which makes it profitable for an educated American to converse with an educated Chinese." —WM AYLOTT ORTON, *The Liberal Tradition*. (Yale U Press)

EMPLOYMENT

I would like to emphasize the full employment can be achieved

only thru our existing profit system. But I don't believe that business men should be held responsible for full employment. The public can't force business to assume that responsibility. If the business man is an efficient operator, and not promoting either scarcity or monopoly, he is doing his duty by society. The responsibility for full employment rests with all the people and with gov't.—HENRY A WALLACE, Sec'y of Commerce, in *Dun's Review*, 10-'45.

FREEDOM—Questioned

To liberate a canary from its cage is to give him a freedom that is death. To liberate is not freedom if the peoples of the world's devastated areas find themselves in the vortex of nat'l and internat'l insecurity, bewilderment, and fear.—RAYMOND H CRAWFORD, "A Voice For This Hour," *Watchman-Examiner*, 12-6-'45.

GOD—and Man

Man is a creature who loves to draw lines, but God is the Power that ignores lines and man-made barriers. The more able we are to see some good in everyone and some truth in all beliefs, the closer we shall come to the mind of God.—THEODORE TIEMEYER, "Three Magical Gifts," *The Expositor*, 12-'45.

HISTORY

We must have a new type of text—not a text written from the narrow standpoint of nationalism but one produced by a company of scholars representing different nations—a text founded on the solid foundation of fact. It is in this way that youth will be saved from those prejudices which so frequently have flamed into internat'l hatred.—WM MATHER LEWIS, *Christian Science Monitor Magazine*.

INDIVIDUAL—Importance

A wise old lady once said, "Yes. I know we are all the salt, but I reckon none of us is more than a pinch." But it's just the pinch of salt put in or left out that makes or spoils the cooking.—*Morning Cheer Monthly*.

LIFE—Living

Living a life is like building a house. You have a certain space in which to build it, only in the building, it is not a question of feet and inches, but of yrs . . . As you look it over you perhaps realize how many things you neglected in your building. There are nooks and corners, and some dark corridors which are worse than useless. There are outside trimmings which are merely for show. And the inside of the house is barely livable.—REV STEPHEN PAULSON, "What Is Vital," *Grit*, 12-16-'45.

Continual Christmas

But how seldom Christmas comes—only once a year; and how soon it is over—a day and a night! If that is the whole of it, it seems not much more durable than the little toys one buys of a fakir on the street corner.

But surely that need not and ought not to be the whole of Christmas; only a single day of generosity, ransomed from the dull servitude of a selfish yr. If every gift is a token of personal thought, a friendly feeling, an unselfish interest in the joy of others, then the thought, the feeling, the interest, may remain after the gift is made.—HENRY VAN DYKE.

NEIGHBORLINESS

A man once said, "It's no wonder the nations can't live at peace together; why, I can't even live at peace with my next-door neighbor!" . . . Unless we can learn to have faith and trust in our fellowmen—the guy next door who borrows your lawnmower and forgets to return it; the fellow upstairs who lent you the book you keep forgetting to return—then we can't expect that our nations will have trust in each other.—T/5 HOLLIS HASTINGS, "This Is The Victory!" *The Link*, 12-'45.

ORIGIN—Strikes

In 1786, some Phila. printers struck for a \$6-a-wk wage. That was the beginning of collective bargaining in America.—*This Wk*.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

A fortnight hence, there will open in N Y a meeting of great importance to the average American householder. It is the conference for Safeguarding Wartime Savings. Attending will be representatives of the 86 Better Business Bureaus thruout the U S. This group has been called together to combat the efforts of confidence men who are now using more than 750 slick schemes to cut into the \$170 billion of savings accumulated during the war, plus the substantial bank-rolls which servicemen are bringing to civilian life. It is now estimated that 85 million Americans, inexperienced in business, will be in some degree susceptible to the fast-talking fraternity.

It is of course not a new story. Somewhat the same condition obtained after the last war. Tho the target then was much smaller, according to gov't estimates the public was swindled out of \$400 million in Liberty bonds alone.

According to Victor H Nyborg pres of Nat'l Ass'n of Better Business Bureaus, one of the most common forms of fraud, long practiced and still thriving, is the "territorial rights" scheme. There is nothing inherently wrong in selling the rights to distribute a product in a given area. But unscrupulous promoters who really have nothing of value to distribute, often sell "rights" to the same territory again and again. The ret'g veteran, seeking an attractive business opportunity, is especially susceptible.

Housewives meet their nemesis in the smooth-talking canvasser who seeks cash deposits on war-scarce household appliances—and then fails to deliver.



DISTRIBUTION—Food: Slot machine food stores may revolutionize marketing. On entering, housewife gets key with roll of paper. She selects slots of foods she wants, inserts key and paper in each one, presses button and her purchases are recorded. Shopping finished, she takes key to cashier who flips it into an electrical translator that decodes keyed purchases, starts 4 conveyor belts bringing order up front at rate of 20 items every 4 seconds. Items arrive assembled, totalled and ready for quick packaging. Two of these stores are ready to go into operation in a few wks. (*Nat'l Home Monthly*)

PHOTOGRAPHY: New machine for use in banks, offices, simultaneously photographs both sides of business document; reducing area 1000 times. Dual reproduction is accomplished by mirrors. One ft 16mm micro-film will record 100 bank checks or reference cards. Machine also endorses bank checks. (*Eastman Kodak Co*)

PRODUCTS: Look soon for arrestingly new tooth paste. Will cost \$1 or more; last several mo's; said to have special antiseptic qualities. (*Pathfinder*)

SCIENCE: Science has measured the velocity of a cough. It has been charted at more than 245 miles per hr as it leaves the throat. (*Grit*)

TRANSPORTATION: Expansion joints in the concrete highways of the future will neither ooze in summer nor cause annoying jars to motorists in any season. New joint filling composed of a heavy compressed chemically treated wood strip running full width of concrete slab is free from warpage, wears indefinitely. (*Business Wk*)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Public relations work is generally considered to be a relatively new development. Actually the principles involved are as old as the ages. The 9th Verse, 14th Chapter of First Corinthians reads: "Except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? For ye shall speak into the air."—CLIFFORD B REEVES, *Forbes*.

RACE—Distinctions

Isolationism is as unhealthy and potentially disastrous at the neighborhood level as at the nat'l level. Only 2 brands of social ideology could possibly countenance the conscious planning and rigid enforcement of residential segregation by economic, racial, and nat'l groups. One is feudalistic fascism. The other is pure, old-fashioned Marxist communism. . . . Needless to say, neither of these systems is exactly favorable to the individualistic middle-class philosophy which presumably dominates the U S A.—CATHERINE BAUER, "Good Neighborhoods," *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 11-45.

RESPONSIBILITY—Shifting

A little girl was given a dime by her mother to give to missions. Later her father found her spending it for ice-cream. He said to her, "I thought you were going to give your dime to the missionaries." She ans'd, "I thought I'd div it to the ice-cream man and let him div it to the missionaries."

Often when we come to the point of doing something, we omit to do it personally.—ROY H SHORT, "God's Purple Heart," *The Pastor*, 12-45.

SOUL—Development

Roger Babson, the statistician, tells of 2 captains of industry standing at the bridge at Niagara Falls. One of them turned to the other and said, "Behold the greatest source of undeveloped power in America." The other replied, "No, the greatest source of undeveloped power in America is the soul of man."—D C HOLLINGER, "The Surrendered Life," *Religious Telescope*, 12-1-45.

SPEECH—Speaking

Associate Justice Wiley B Rutledge of the Supreme court has for many yrs practiced an excellent method to keep from talking too long. When called upon to speak, he leisurely lights a cigarette, then, without puffing it, holds it until it burns his fingers. By then, "time's up" and he sits down.—*Facts*.

Christmas Gift!

A gentle old man and his wife, shanty-boaters, live in a cove not too far from New Orleans.

They wanted above all things a wall motto—one of those brightly colored benedictions so familiar in rustic homes. But they were desperately poor.

Then one day a more prosperous neighbor heard of the unfilled desire. On Christmas he arrived with a beautiful motto, lettered on glass in several colors; decorated with a shiny golden chain.

They hung it on the wall that Christmas day. And with each new Christmas they decorate it with pine cones, bits of ribbon, whatever discarded festive finery they can garner. Their eyes light as they study the brightly-decorated letters.

"I sure wish I could read it," the old man always says when I come on an occasional visit. But they have no "book learning."

I have never told these kindly, plous souls the words those letters spell:

"Nick's Place

The Beer with the Golden Flavor.

Pay When Served."

—BEN LUCIEN BURMAN, *Chicago Daily News*.

THOUGHT

Most folks have presence of mind. The trouble is absence of thought.—HOWARD W NEWTON, *Redbook*.

WOMEN

Womankind is divided into 2 classes—the careless ones who lose their gloves, and the careful ones who lose only one glove.—*This Wk*.

"I saw the Holy Christ-child!"

A hundred yrs ago, the German scribe, ADALBERT STIFTER, wrote a collection of little stories which he called BUNTE STEINE ("Colored Stones"). Each tale bore the name of some semiprecious stone. The one with which we are here concerned was called "Rock Crystal." Under that title it has just been put into beautiful holiday binding by PANTHEON BOOKS (\$2.75) with colored illustrations by JOSEPH SCHARL. This is the story of two small children who, on Christmas Eve, lost their way and wandered among the icefields of a glacier. The tale has no plot of consequence, its charm resting almost wholly upon simple narration. Unfortunately, something of the mystic spell of the original is lost, even in the excellent English translation by ELIZABETH MAYER and MARIANNE MOORE. At this point, the children have sought shelter in a natural cavern formed in the ice.

It was the moment when people in the valleys were lighting candles. At first but one is lit and placed on the table to light the room, but on this evening above all—Holy Night—there would be many more lights to shine upon the presents lying spread on tables for the children, or hanging from Christmas trees. Yet of all the many lights in the valley that night, not a candle-beam made its way up to them; they looked out upon nothingness, the blankness of the snow, the sombre sky; everything else was lost in darkness. At this hr, in all the valleys, children were receiving gifts from the Christ-child; only these two sat alone by the glacier.

After a great while Conrad said: "Sanna, you mustn't go to sleep; you know what Father said, 'if you fall asleep in the mountains you're sure to freeze,' the way the old ash-woodsman went to sleep and was dead on a stone 4 long mo's and not a soul knew where he was."

Even tho Conrad kept before his mind's eye the fate of the frozen woodsman, fatigue would have been too much for them, had not Nature befriended them.

In the vast stillness which prevailed, a stillness in which not a snow crystal seemed to stir, three times they heard the roar of the ice. What appears the most inert and is yet the most active and living of things, the glacier, had made the sounds. The children sat, open-eyed, gazing up at the stars. Something now began to happen, as they watched. While they sat thus, a faint light bloomed amid the stars, describing upon the heavens a delicate arc. The faint

green luminescence traveled slowly downward. But the arc grew brighter and brighter until the stars paled away while a shudder of light, invading other parts of the firmament, vibrated and flooded the stellar spaces. Then from the highest point of the arc sheaves radiated like points of a crown, all aglow. Whether or not electricity in the atmosphere had become so charged by the tremendous snowfall that it flashed forth in these silent magnificent shafts of light, or whether unfathomable Nature was to be explained in some other way: after awhile the brightness paled, grew fainter and fainter.

The children said not a word, the one to the other. They remained, on and on, never stirring from where they sat, gazing intently at the sky. The sky grew paler, then slowly it began to color.

"Sanna, it's almost day," said the lad. "We must be on our way."

The children themselves were bewildered by all the commotion. They had been given something to eat and put to bed. Late in the evening when they had somewhat recovered, Sanna's mother was sitting by the bed caressing her. Suddenly the child said, "Mother, last night when we were up there on the mountain, I saw the Holy Christ-child."

"Oh, my precious, my beloved child," ans'd the mother, "He has also sent you some presents that you are going to receive now."

Despite their fatigue, the children wanted to put on some clothes so that they could go in the other room; and there they rec'd their presents, admired them, and fell asleep over them.



How Come Christmas?
ROARK BRADFORD

This bit of Negro legend, by the author of GREEN PASTURES, is excerpted from a short story of the same title.

Well, when Sandy Claus got to Miss Mary's house ev'body was standin' around givin' de Poor Little Jesus presents. So when they seed old Sandy Claus come in dey looked to see what he brang. When dey seed he didn't brang nothin' but a red apple, dey all laughed.

"Y'all jest stand back," says Sandy Claus. He pushed away a handful er gold and silver and diamonds and stuff, and handed de Poor Little Jesus dat red apple. "H'yar, son," he say, "take dis old apple. See how she shines?"

And de Poor Little Jesus reached up and grabbed dat apple and laughed jest as brash as you please . . .

So about dat time up stepped de Lawd. "I swear old Sandy Claus," say de Lawd, "de Poor Little Jesus ain't had so much fun since he been bawn. You sho do know how to handle yo'sef around de chilluns . . . you sho do get along wid 'em good."

"Hit's easy to do what you likes to do," say Sandy Claus.

"Well," say de Lawd, "hit might be somethin' in dat, too. But de trouble wid my world is, hit ain't enough people which likes to do de right thing. But you likes to do wid chilluns, and dat's what I needs. So stand still and shet yo' eyes whilst I passes a miracle on you."

So Sandy Claus stood still and shet his eyes, and de Lawd r'ared back and passed a miracle and say, "Old Sandy Claus, live forever and make my chilluns happy."

In English III a fat student was a complete failure. "I declare, young man," complained the prof, "your body seems to be far better nourished than your mind."

"That's easy to understand, sir," the fat boy replied, a malicious glint in his eye. "You feed my mind, prof, but I feed my body!"—*Wall St Jnl.*

" "

The parents were invited out to dinner, so they hired a "sitter" to look after their two children. They arrived at home in their usual state of uneasiness, but were reassured by the sight of the sitter calmly reading in the living room, assuring them that there hadn't been any murmur out of the sleeping children.

But presently they went upstairs and found the 7-year-old's bed empty. They searched the house and yard but no little boy. Panicky, Dad was just about to notify the police when the youngster walked in the front door. Nothing to get excited about, he assured the parents. He had been hired by the Smiths, next door, to act as sitter for their kids while they went to a party.—*ELEANOR CLARAGE, Cleveland Plain-Dealer.*



OF THE WEEK

A budget is something you can't live within without.—*The Woman.*

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SMALLEST BOOK IN THE WORLD: the current edition of *Who's Who in Germany*.—*Command Post.*

" "

ALIMONY: the high cost of leaving.—*Business Girl.*

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

I LAUGHED AT THIS ONE

W E SIMPSON

A well-known educator, visiting a Negro church in a small Ga community was impressed by a very distinctive gesture which the pastor employed. At intervals during the course of the sermon this leader of the flock would extend his arms in front of him; raise and lower them with a slow rhythmic motion.

Later, the white visitor asked his Negro brother to explain the significance of the unusual movement. "Well," said the parson, "de congregation knows 'bout dat. I done 'splained it to 'em. Y' see, sah, dem is de quotation mahks!"

At a wedding breakfast little Eric was given a seat near his adoring aunt.

"Well," said the old lady, "what kind of a wedding will you have, Eric?"

"I'm never going to get married."

"But why won't you ever get married?"

Eric was silent for a few minutes as he gazed across the table at his admiring parents. Then he answered very positively: "Because, Auntie, I've lived with married people too long already."—*Magazine Digest.*

Pat and Mike had just arrived from South Ireland, and they were not acquainted with our traffic signals. They were waiting at an intersection when the light turned from red to orange. Everyone but these 2 rushed across the st. The orange light, of course, quickly turned green, and as the Irishmen started across, Pat observed to his partner, "Shure, an' they don't give the Protestants much time t' git across, do they?"—*Novena Notes.*

" "

Mary was one of the most popular girls in town. When she married, the church was crowded. Following the ceremony, friends began to gather round to kiss the bride. After a hectic half-hr, the breathless girl looked narrowly at a little man and said, "Hey, I don't know you! Why are you kissing me?"

"I dunno, lady," said the man meekly. "When I joined this line down the st, I understood it was for bacon!"—*Louisville Courier-Jnl.*

